

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 SIL-01

LAB-04 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8392

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UNCLAS GENEVA 1434

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG APER UNOG

SUBJECT: STRIKE CONTINUES AT UN OFFICE GENEVA

REF: A GENEVA 1387, B ARENDS-HENNESS TELCON, C GENEVA 1429

1. G-LEVEL WORKERS CONTINUED TO STRIKE THROUGHOUT THE DAY OF FEB 26, 1976. BY LATE AFTERNOON STAFF COUNCIL MEMBERS SAID THEY SAW SOME HOPE FOR AGREEMENT IN THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL WINSPEARE HAD SUBMITTED A DRAFT STATEMENT TO THEM FOR THEIR COMMENTS. SOMEHOW WINSPEARE'S DRAFT DRAFT WAS PUBLISHED IN FINAL COPY, THUS PRECLUDING ANY EMPLOYEE INPUT INTO ITS CONTENT, AND THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ONCE AGAIN FALLEN DOWN.

2. ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD IS REPORTED AS HAVING SAID THAT HE WILL TRY TO HONOR THE AGREEMENT WITH THE ILO STAFF, I.E. FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BATTELLE INSTITUTE. HE HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED AS SAYING IN CONFIDENCE TO SENIOR PALAIS OFFICIALS THAT THIS WOULD MEAN THE TERMINATION OF A NUMBER OF SHORT AND FIXED-TERM CONTRACTS, MANY OF THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL. IF WINSPEARE WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT SIMILAR TO THAT REPORTEDLY MADE BY BLANCHARD, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT STRIKING UNOG EMPLOYEES
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WOULD BE SATISFIED. HOWEVER, WINSPEARE CONTINUES TO TAKE

THE LINE THAT THE ISSUE IS BEYOND HIS COMPETENCE. NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE STAFF ARE BEING CONDUCTED BY WINSPEARE'S CHEF DU CABINET, ERIK JENSEN, ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. A GREAT DEAL OF SARCASM PREVAILS IN REGARD TO WINSPEARE'S RELUCTANCE TO BE INVOLVED IN AN ISSUE SO VITAL TO HIS OWN INTERESTS.

3. EMPLOYEE MORALE IN THE PALAIS DES NATIONS HAS STEADILY DECLINED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AND THE STRIKE IS MERELY A MANIFESTATION OF GENERAL DIS-SATISFACTION WITH MANAGEMENT. THE SALARY INCREASE RECOMMENDED BY BATTELLE IS REALLY NO LONGER THE MAJOR ISSUE, BUT RATHER IT IS THE WAY IN WHICH UNOG ADMINISTRATORS HAVE ADDRESSED THEMSELVES TO THE PROBLEM.

4. ALTHOUGH EMPLOYEES OF THE GATT WENT OUT ON STRIKE IN SYMPATHY WITH THEIR UNOG COLLEAGUES ON FEB 26, THEY WERE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO WORK THE FOLLOWING DAY. EMPLOYEES OF THE OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN GENEVA CONTINUED ON THE JOB, BUT REPS OF THE STAFF ORGANIZATIONS OF BOTH WHO AND ILO SAID THEY WOULD REFUSE TO SUPPORT ANY UN CONFERENCES SHOULD THEIR VENUE BE CHANGED FROM THE PALAIS DES NATIONS TO EITHER OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS.

5. IN REGARD TO HENNES' QUERY RE MISSION LOCAL SALARIES, THE LAST SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN OCT 1974 BY EDWARD A SOMPAYRAC, A WAGE AND SALARY CONSULTANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF 7613 WOODRIDGE CIRCLE, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA. RESULTS OF HIS FINDINGS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE DEPARTMENT. DALE

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